

5 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Junior School Weekly Highlights – Friday 5 March 2021**

As I write my final lockdown weekly update on remote teaching and learning, the general 'buzz' and energy around the Junior School as teachers prepare for our return to school on Monday really has been wonderful to see. It is a pleasure to be coming to the end of what is hopefully the final lockdown return to school planning and preparation stage and I know I speak on behalf of the team when I say how much we are looking forward to a return to 'normality' and seeing the smiling faces of our pupils next week.

I would like to remind you to please read my letter regarding our return to school in the bulletin both last week and today. There are some key details that you will need to familiarise yourselves with, particularly in relation to amended drop off and collection times, as well as changes to locations. Please also check your child's SOCS account prior to our return to ensure you know which Forder Programme activities they are registered for. These activities will begin from Monday 8 March and will also indicate new collection times, which have been amended from last term. If your child has a sports Forder Programme after school activity, they should come to school wearing their PE kit that day.

### **Nursery and Reception**

This week in Nursery the children have been very curious about birds, asking lots of questions and making nests. Pupils celebrated 'World Book Day' by acting out the story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen. The children came prepared with nets, magnifying glasses and binoculars, and eagerly set to work looking for bear prints on the field. Nursery finished the day by turning themselves into bears thanks to Ms Champion's face painting skills. In Reception, the children have been learning about the solar system and have loved discovering new facts and sharing their ideas. They have found creative ways to represent the solar system using fruit, balls and other unusual household items. Pupils have reinforced their learning and understanding about shapes by creating art work and finding shapes in their homes. 'World Book Day' was certainly a highlight, with a special story time from Mr Ede and Mrs Henderson and children created their own big books following this.

### **Years 1 and 2**

In English, Year 1 have enjoyed spending more time immersed in their class story 'Man on the Moon.' The children enjoyed hot seating aliens to find out what a typical day is like for them causing mischief on the moon, before writing a diary in role as an alien, using conjunctions to extend their sentences. The children had a fantastic time on 'World Book Day,' creating a picture

book theatre inspired by their masterclass with illustrator Lydia Monks. Their theatres were the perfect setting to perform their own alternative endings to 'Man on the Moon,' the teachers were so impressed with the children's creativity- what a talented bunch of authors and illustrators they are! The Year 1 maths focus this week has been 'length'. The children began by comparing the length of objects in their homes using comparative language such as shorter, shortest, longer and longest. They were then able to use a range of non-standard units to measure objects around the house before using a ruler to measure objects accurately using centimetres! In English this week, Year 2 have been revising spelling rules; adding suffixes to root words ending in a single verb and consonant (double the last consonant!) and words that end in a y (drop the y and replace with an i!) or an e (drop the e!). They also reminded themselves of some tricky *homophones*, where words that can sound the same often have different spellings or different meanings. *Hear! Here!* In maths, the children have been identifying the value of coins and notes, making comparisons and adding different combinations of coins to make totals. Even though it has not been something we have all had much practise at recently in the real world, the children responded brilliantly to the challenge of finding as many different combinations to find the same amount!

### **Years 3 and 4**

In their final week of remote learning, Year 3 have participated in a 'Great Grammar Quiz', learnt about endangered animals and celebrated 'World Book Day' – what a scrumdiddlyumptious week it has been. As we reflect upon the last few weeks, we would like to congratulate all the children on their achievements. They have shown creativity, courage, confidence, compassion and curiosity. They have learnt new skills, been independent and shown great resilience. Well done everyone and we can't wait to see you soon! To end our final week of remote learning, Year 4 have been getting technical in IPC with all things sound! They have been exploring decibels, listening to the sounds around us, measuring the amplitude and recording our results in bar graphs. They had a lot of fun on 'World Book Day', guessing each other's favourite books and characters with a real life cat acting as Hermoine Granger's pet, Crookshanks! We are really looking forward to going back to school and seeing our friends again!

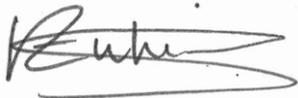
### **Years 5 and 6**

The highlight for Years 5 and 6 this week was definitely been 'World Book Day.' They had a wonderful extended form time with pupils bringing imaginative clues for their classmates to guess what books they had been reading. There were outrageous outfits, wonderful wigs and fantastic face paint! The day continued with a 'trip' to the Unicorn Theatre where pupils were treated to wonderful virtual performance of Grimm's Fairy tales. A range of other fun activities took place throughout the day which saw the creation of some amazing 'book bedrooms' and some wonderful book trailers. The day was rounded off with a Big Fat Book Quiz. The final round of the Year 5 quiz was called 'Face Swap' and the children were in stitches seeing their own faces superimposed onto characters from famous book covers! Despite all the laughter, they managed to get most of the books correct! A wonderful end to virtual learning.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire Junior School community for their continued support, cooperation and understanding throughout the pandemic. The resilience shown by our pupils, the creativity and ongoing positivity of the Junior School team and to our parents for your regular words of encouragement and assistance in ensuring that pupils could transition into home learning so smoothly. We are very fortunate to have maintained such high levels of engagement thanks to the extremely high quality of our remote teaching provision and I remain very proud of all we have achieved during such a challenging period.

I do hope that your child is looking forward to their return on Monday, however, we are aware that they may be feeling anxious about such a change to their now-established routine. Should you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's Form Teacher directly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Whitwood', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Miss L Whitwood  
**Head of Junior School**